

In the eyes of the 45-plus members of Cal Poly's President's Cabinet, President Warren J. Baker, with the help of his wife, Carly, has transformed a good university into a great one.

To recognize that exceptional leadership, and to give Cal Poly a new avenue for contributing to the continuing improvement of higher education, the cabinet – leaders from business, industry, and government who advise President Baker and the university – has established and funded a new event: the Baker Forum.

The Baker Forum is envisioned as a biennial gathering to highlight critical higher-education issues, stimulate creative responses to public-policy questions, and attract national and international business and industry leaders, university presidents, and other representatives of major polytechnic, scientific, and technological institutions from the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

"The forum will honor the Bakers' more than two decades of leadership, vision, and contributions to the university and to American higher education," says Cabinet Chair Jaime Oaxaca, who, among his past and present roles in business and industry, also serves as chairman of the U.S. Space Foundation's board of directors.

"It not only will be a fitting tribute to a wonderful team,"

The Baker Forum

Event Recognizes Bakers' Leadership, Explores Future of Polytechnic Education



President Warren J. Baker and his wife, Carly, were honored for more than 20 years of service to Cal Poly.

Below, keynote speaker Susan Hackwood.

Photos by Jeff Greene



Oaxaca says, "but it also will provide prominent educators, industry leaders, and public-policy-makers with ideas on how we can better plan for the future and educate students for the many opportunities ahead as well as the numerous challenges our society faces."

Cabinet members helped set the agenda for the inaugural forum on April 5-6: the future of polytechnic universities such as Cal Poly and other institutions that emphasize science and technology, and the role they can play in preparing new generations of students to help fulfill the demand for technical innovations that serve the public interest.

The public keynote address on April 5, "California at Risk: The Imperative for Science and Technology Educational Reform," was given by Susan Hackwood, executive director of the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST). Hackwood spoke on what the state must do to remain the nation's science and technology leader and keep its high-tech economy healthy. She discussed the results of the CCST's just-completed two-year "critical path analysis" of mathematics, science, and technology education in California from kindergarten through graduate school and continuing education, and the

need for science and engineering graduates to meet industry's growing requirement for skilled workers. Commentaries on this timely report were offered by Morehouse College President Walter E. Massey and VERITAS Software Chairman, President, and CEO Gary Bloom (CSC '82).

The California Council on Science and Technology is sponsored by the state's key academic institutions. Its 120-plus members – including leaders in science and technology, members of the national academies, and six Nobel Prize laureates – advise the state on all aspects of science and technology, including energy, information technology, biotechnology, and education. President Baker serves on the council's board of directors and on the editorial review committee for its just-released study of science and technology education.

Hackwood is also an award-winning professor of electrical engineering at UC Riverside, where she was founding dean of the Bourns College of Engineering. Her special academic interests include multimedia technologies, distributed asynchronous signal processing, and cellular robot systems. Co-editor and co-founder of the *Journal of Robotic Systems*, she has worked extensively with industry, academic, and government partnerships in transferring technology from research to manufacturing,

and is active in regional and state economic development.

A panel discussion and breakout sessions on April 6 addressed three topics: the ethical challenges involved with science and technology's role in society; the preparation of better-educated and diverse students for careers in science, math, engineering, and technology; and partnerships among universities, industry, and government in research and education.

The Baker Forum will also pay tribute to individuals who have made significant contributions to higher education. This year the first presentation of the Wiley Lifetime Achievement Award – sponsored by John Wiley and Sons Inc. – was made to Walter Massey. The award recognizes a national leader whose work exemplifies extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions to American higher education and public life.

Massey is former director of the National Science Foundation – the government's lead agency for supporting research and education in mathematics, science, and engineering – and the Argonne National Laboratory, and is a former president and chairman of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He currently serves on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

For more on the Baker Forum, visit www.bakerforum.calpoly.edu.

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President's Cabinet

Cal Poly is grateful to the President's Cabinet for its support and vision in creating the Baker Forum.

Wiley Lifetime Achievement Award

John Wiley & Sons Inc. has generously established the Wiley Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a national leader whose work exemplifies extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions to American higher education and public life.

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